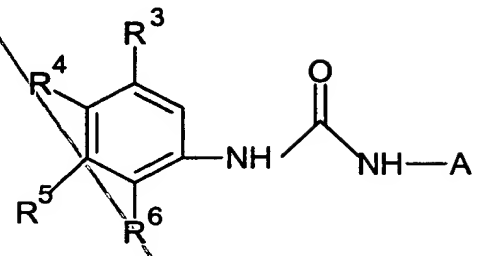
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

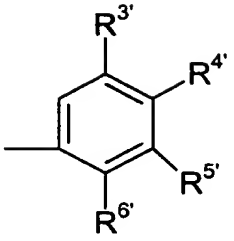
1. A compound of formula I:



I

wherein

A is



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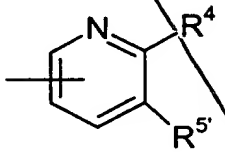

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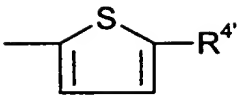


R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 are each, independently, H, halogen, NO_2, C_{1-10}- alkyl, optionally substituted by halogen up to perhaloalkyl, C_{1-10}-alkoxy, optionally substituted by halogen up to perhaloalkoxy, C_{6-12} aryl, optionally substituted by C_{1-10} alkyl or C_{1-10} alkoxy, or C_{5-12} hetaryl, optionally substituted by C_{1-10} alkyl or C_{1-10} alkoxy,

and one of R^3-R^6 can be –X-Y;

or two adjacent R^3-R^6 can together be an aryl or hetaryl ring with 5-12 atoms, optionally substituted by C_{1-10}-alkyl, C_{1-10}-alkoxy, C_{3-10}-cycloalkyl, C_{2-10}-alkenyl, C_{1-10}-alkanoyl, C_{6-12}-aryl, C_{5-12}-hetaryl; C_{6-12}-aralkyl, C_{6-12}-alkaryl, halogen; NR^1R^1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

with the proviso that if X is –O- or –S- , $R^{3'}$ and $R^{6'}$ are H, and Y is phenyl unsubstituted by OH, then R^6 is alkoxy.

2. A compound according to claim 1, having a pKa greater than 10.

3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^3 is halogen or C_{1-10}- alkyl, optionally substituted by halogen, up to perhaloalkyl;

R^4 is H, halogen or NO_2;

R^5 is H, halogen or C_{1-10}- alkyl; R^6 is H, C_{1-10}- alkoxy, thiophene, pyrole or methyl substituted pyrole,

$R^{3'}$ is H, halogen, CH_3, or CF_3 and $R^{6'}$ is H, halogen CH_3, CF_3 or $-OCH_3$.

4. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^3 is C_{4-10}-alkyl, Cl, F or CF_3;

R^4 is H, Cl, F or NO_2;

R^5 is H, Cl, F or C_{4-10}-alkyl; and

R^6 is H or OCH_3.

5. A compound according to claim 4, wherein R^3 or R^5 is t-butyl.

6. A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is $-CH_2-$, $-N(CH_3)-$ or –NHC(O)-.

7. A compound according to claim 6, wherein Y is phenyl or pyridyl.

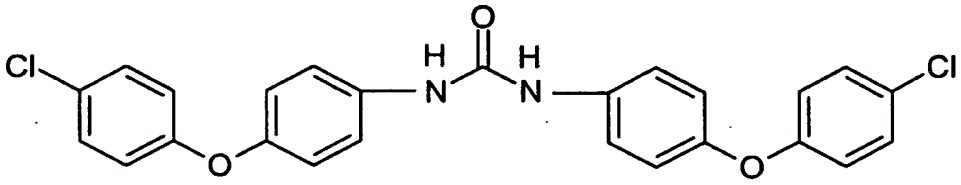
8. A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is –O-.

9. A compound according to claim 8, wherein Y is phenyl, pyridyl pyridone or benzothiazole.

10. A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is –S-.

11. A compound according to claim 10, wherein Y is phenyl or pyridyl.

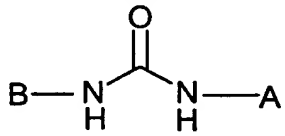
12. A compound of the formula



13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1, and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 12, and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

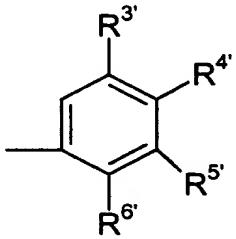
15. A method for the treatment of a cancerous cell growth mediated by raf kinase, comprising administering a compound of formula II:



II

wherein

A is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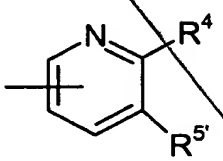
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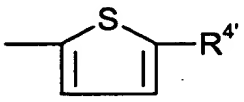
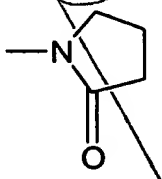


B is a substituted or unsubstituted, up to tricyclic aryl or heteroaryl moiety of up to 30 carbon atoms with at least one 6-member aromatic structure containing 0-4 members of the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, wherein if B is

$-NO_2$; $-CF_3$; $-COOR^1$; $-NHCOR^1$; $-CN$; $-CONR^1R^1$; $-SO_2R^2$; $-SOR^2$; $-SR^2$; in which R^1 is H or C_{1-10}-alkyl and R^2 is C_{1-10}-alkyl, optionally substituted by halogen, up to perhalo with $-S(O_2)-$ optionally incorporated in the aryl or hetaryl ring;

$R^{4'}$, $R^{5'}$ and $R^{6'}$ are independently H, halogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, optionally substituted by halogen up to perhaloalkyl,



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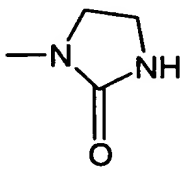


,

C_1 –C_{10} alkoxy optionally substituted by halogen up to perhaloalkoxy or –X-Y, and either one of $R^{4'}$, $R^{5'}$ or $R^{6'}$ is –X-Y or two adjacent of $R^{4'}$, $R^{5'}$ and $R^{6'}$ together are a hetaryl ring with 5-12 atoms optionally substituted by C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl, C_{1-10} alkanoyl, C_{6-12} aryl, C_{5-12} hetaryl or C_{6-12} aralkyl;

$R^{6'}$ is additionally $-NHCOR^1$, $-NR^1COR^1$ or NO_2;

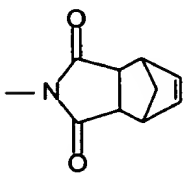
R^1 is C_{1-10} alkyl optionally substituted by halogen up to perhalo;

$R^{3'}$ is H, halogen, C_1–C_{10} alkyl optionally substituted by halogen up to perhaloalkyl, C_1–C_{10} alkoxy, optionally substituted by halogen up to perhaloalkoxy;

X is $-CH_2-$, -S-, $-N(CH_3)-$, -NHC(O)-, $-CH_2-S-$, $-S-CH_2-$, -C(O)-, or –O-; and

X is additionally a single bond where Y is pyridyl; and

Y is phenyl, pyridyl, naphthyl, pyridone, pyrazine, pyrimidine, benzodiaxane, benzopyridine or benzothiazole, each optionally substituted by C_{1-10}-alkyl, C_{1-10}-alkoxy, halogen, OH, $-SCH_3$, NO_2 or, where Y is phenyl, by



substituted it is substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, up to per-halo, and W_n, wherein n is 0-3 and each W is independently selected from the group consisting of –CN, $-CO_2R^7$, $-C(O)NR^7R^7$, $-C(O)-R^7$, $-NO_2$, $-OR^7$, $-SR^7$, $-NR^7R^7$, $-NR^7C(O)OR^7$, $-NR^7C(O)R^7$, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_1-C_{10} alkoxy, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{14} aryl, C_7-C_{24} alkaryl, C_3-C_{13} heteroaryl, C_4-C_{23} alkheteroaryl, substituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl, substituted C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, substituted C_1-C_{10} alkoxy, substituted C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, substituted C_4-C_{23} alkheteroaryl and Q-Ar;

wherein if W is a substituted group, it is substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of –CN, $-CO_2R^7$, $-C(O)R^7$, $-C(O)NR^7R^7$, $-OR^7$, $-SR^7$, $-NR^7R^7$, NO_2, $-NR^7C(O)R^7$, $-NR^7C(O)OR^7$ and halogen up to per-halo;

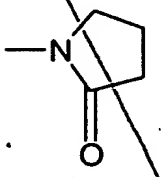
wherein each R^7 is independently selected from H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{14} aryl, C_3-C_{13} hetaryl, C_7-C_{24} alkaryl, C_4-C_{23} alkheteroaryl, up to per-halosubstituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl, up to per-halo substituted C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, up to per-halosubstituted C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, up to per-halosubstituted C_6-C_{14} aryl and up to per-halosubstituted C_3-C_{13} hetaryl,

wherein Q is - O-, -S-, $-N(R^7)-$, $-(CH_2)_m-$, -C(O)-, -CH(OH)-, $-(CH_2)_mO-$, $-NR^7C(O)\ NR^7R^7-$, $-NR^7C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^7-$, $-(CH_2)_mS-$, $-(CH_2)_mN(R^7)-$, $-O(CH_2)_m-$, $-CHX^a$, $-CX^a_2-$, $-S-(CH_2)_m-$ and $-N(R^7)(CH_2)_m-$,

m = 1-3, and X^a is halogen; and

Ar is a 5-10 member aromatic structure containing 0-2 members of the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen up to per-halo and optionally substituted by Z_{n1}, wherein $_{n1}$ is 0 to 3 and each Z is independently selected from the group consisting of of –CN, $-CO_2R^7$, $-C(O)NR^7R^7$, $-C(O)-\ NR^7$, $-NO_2$, $-OR^7$, $-\ SR^7$, $-\ NR^7R^7$, $-NR^7C(O)OR^7$, $-C(O)R^7$, $-NR^7C(O)R^7$, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{14} aryl, C_3-C_{13} hetaryl, C_7-C_{24} alkaryl, C_4-C_{23} alkheteroaryl, substituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl, substituted C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, substituted C_7-C_{24} alkaryl and substituted C_4-C_{23} alkheteroaryl; wherein the one or more substituents of Z is selected from the group consisting of –CN, $-CO_2R^7$, $-C(O)NR^7R^7$, $-OR^7$, $-SR^7$, $-NO_2$, $-NR^7R^7$, $-NR^7C(O)R^7$ and $-NR^7C(O)OR^7$,

$R^{4'}$, $R^{5'}$and $R^{6'}$ are each independently H, halogen, C_{1-10}-alkyl, optionally substituted by halogen up to perhaloalkyl,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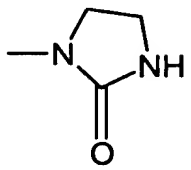

,

C_1 –C_{10} alkoxy, optionally substituted by halogen up to perhaloalkoxy or –X-Y, and

either one of $R^{4'}$, $R^{5'}$ or $R^{6'}$ is –X-Y or two adjacent of $R^{4'}$, $R^{5'}$ and $R^{6'}$ together are a hetaryl ring with 5-12 atoms optionally substituted by C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl, C_{1-10} alkanoyl, C_{6-12} aryl, C_{5-12} hetaryl or C_{6-12} aralkyl;

$R^{6'}$ is additionally –$NHCOR^1$, - NR^1COR^1 or NO_2;

R^1 is C_{1-10} alkyl optionally substituted by halogen up to perhalo;

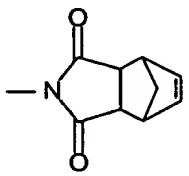
$R^{3'}$ is independently H, halogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, optionally substituted by halogen up to perhaloalkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy, optionally substituted by halogen up to perhaloalkoxy;

X is –CH_2-, -S- -$N(CH_3)$-, -NHC(O)-, -CH_2-S-, -C(O)-, or –O-;

X is additionally a single bond where Y is pyridyl; and

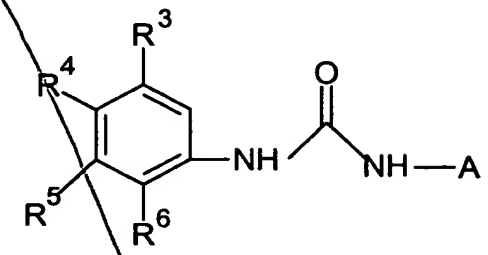
Y is phenyl, pyridyl, naphthyl, pyridone, pyrazine, pyrimidine, benzodioxane, benzopyridine or benzothiazole, each optionally substituted by

C_{1-10}-alkyl, C_{1-10}-alkoxy, halogen, OH, -SCH_3, or NO_2 or, where Y is phenyl, by



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

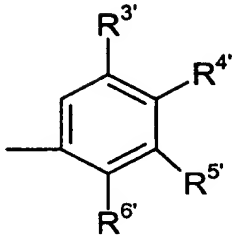
16. A method according to claim 15, comprising administering a compound of formula IIa:

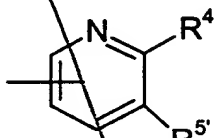


IIa

wherein

A is





or

R^3, R^4 ,R^5 and R^6 are each independently H, halogen, NO_2, C_{1-10}- alkyl, optionally substituted by halogen up to perhaloalkyl, or C_{1-10}-alkoxy, optionally substituted by halogen up to perhaloalkoxy, C_{6-12} aryl, optionally substituted by C_{1-10} alkyl or C_{1-10} alkoxy, or C_{5-12} hetaryl, optionally substituted by C_{1-10} alkyl or C_{1-10} alkoxy,

and one of R^3-R^6 can be –X-Y;

or two adjacent R^3-R^6 can together be an aryl or hetaryl ring with 5-12 atoms, optionally substituted by C_{1-10}-alkyl, C_{1-10}-alkoxy, C_{3-10}-cycloalkyl, C_{2-10}-alkenyl, C_{1-10}-alkanoyl; C_{6-12}-aryl, C_{5-12}-hetaryl, C_{6-12}-alkaryl, halogen; $-NR^1R^1$; $-NO_2$; $-CF_3$; $-COOR^1$; $-NHCOR^1$; -CN; $-CONR^1R^1$; $-SO_2R^2$; $-SOR^2$; $-SR^2$; in which R^1 is H or C_{1-10}-alkyl, optionally substituted by halogen, up to perhalo and R^2 is C_{1-10}-alkyl, optionally substituted by halogen, up to perhalo, with $-SO_2-$ optionally incorporated in the aryl or hetaryl ring, and $R^{3'}$- $R^{6'}$ are as defined in claim 15.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein

R^3 is halogen or C_{1-10}- alkyl, optionally substituted by halogen, up to perhaloalkyl;

R^4 is H, halogen or NO_2;

R^5 is H, halogen or C_{1-10}- alkyl;

R^6 is H [or] C_{1-10}- alkoxy, thiophene, pyrole or methylsubstituted pyrole

$R^{3'}$ is H, halogen, CH_3, or CF_3 and

$R^{6'}$ is H, halogen, CH_3, CF_3 or OCH_3.

18. A method according to claim 16, wherein X is $-CH_2-$, [or] –S-, $-N(CH_3)-$ or –NHC(O)- and Y is phenyl or pyridyl.

19. A method according to claim 16, wherein X is –O- and Y is phenyl, pyridone, pyrimidine, pyridyl or benzothiazole.